Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

2390. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi, the National Capital and other metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras are considered to be worst polluted areas; if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

(b) whether Government have got a plan to make Delhi a clean and pollution free city; if so, the measures taken and by when it is proposed to be achieved; and

(c) whether Government have framed a policy to make the country, particularly the cosmopolitan towns, pollution free; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) As per the report prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board there is a deterioration in water quality near outfalls close to urban settlements owing to an increase in domestic wastes. A deterioration in the air quality is observed in metropolitan cities because of an increase in vehicular pollution.

The steps taken by the Government to control pollution are as follows :

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) A network of ambient and water quality monitoring stations has been set up in metropolitan cities.

(iii) Metropolitan cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards within a time-frame.

(vi) Scheme for construction/augmentation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken under the Ganga Action Plan of the Central Government.

(vii) A scheme have been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(viii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(ix) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified for 1995 under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990.

(x) Public awareness campaigns on vehicular pollution have been launched.

Environmental Problems of the Konkan Railway Project

2391. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally resolved the environmental problems of the Konkan Railway Project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the difficulties in this regard;

(d) whether the Committee constituted by the Ministry on the subject has submitted its report;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon; and

(f) if not, by when the report is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) To resolve the environmental problems of the Konkan Railway Line, Ministry has constituted an Expert Committee. The Committee having examined various environmental, architectural, cultural and heritage aspects of the Konkan Railway alignment has submitted its report. The report is under examination by the Ministry.

(f) Does not arise.

Social Forestry Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2392. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area brought under the Social Forestry Programme during the last three years, year-wise in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of trees planted during that period and how many have survived; and

(c) what is the total amount spent on this programme during that period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The physical and financial achievements of afforestation/tree planting activities including Social Forestry, under the Twenty Point Programme, during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh is as given below :—

	Physical (Seedlings in lakhs)	(Area in ha.)	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
	Seedlings Distribution (for planting on private lands, etc,)	Area Coverage (public lands, including forest lands)	
1989-90 . . .	—	131757.50	2174.00
1990-91 . . .	1612.00	21600.00	2195.92
1991-92 . . .	1775.91	56590.00	2376.92

It may be mentioned that from the year 1990-91, targets are being set (and consequently achievements being reported) in terms of two mutually exclusive items, i.e. "seedlings distribution" for planting on private lands and "area coverage" for public lands, including forest lands. For the year 1989-90, the achievement was assessed in terms of area coverage only.

State-wise position of survival of saplings for the last three years is not readily available. Studies and assessments of the afforestation and tree planting activities carried out in certain States have revealed that, while there are location-wise and species-wise variations, the overall survival rate varies from 55% to 80%.

National Parks New Haven for Terrorists

2393. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in Indian Express dated 13th November, 1992 stating that National Park have become New haven for terrorists and naxalites;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the observations made therein; and

(c) the details of action initiated taken in the matter and with what results ?